

REMARKS

After amendment, claims 45-64 and 67-76 remain pending in this application. Claims 65-66, which are directed to compositions, have been cancelled *without prejudice*. Applicants are considering filing a divisional application directed to the same subject matter of cancelled claims 65-66, as well as other composition and/or method claims. The present amendment has been made to remove all outstanding issues in the application and to expedite allowance of the present application, inasmuch as the only still-rejected claims, claims 65-66, are cancelled without prejudice. New claims 67-76 are directed to narrower aspects of allowed method claims 45-64 which specify the type of pasta and the type of nutritional supplement. Support for new claims 67-76 can be found in the originally filed specification and claims and more specifically in the specification at page 7, lines 27-28 (vitamins as nutritional supplements) and page 8, lines 17-19 (pasta may be macaroni, spaghetti or vermicelli). No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

The Examiner has allowed claims 45-64 and rejected claims 65-66. In order to obviate the Examiner's rejection and expedite the allowance of the instant application, Applicants have cancelled without prejudice claims 64-65. Newly added claims 67-76, which are dependent on the already allowed claims 45-64, are respectfully submitted to also be allowable.

Although the Examiner has rejected claims 65-66 under 35 U.S.C. §103, Applicants respectfully submit that with the amendment to the claims, this rejection is presently moot. In the interest of brevity, Applicants shall not address this rejection further in this application.

In light of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully maintained that the instant amendments and remarks address all of the grounds for rejection raised by the Examiner.

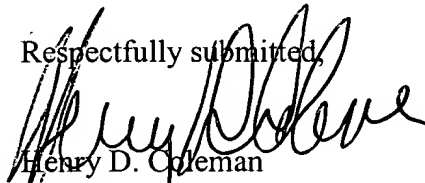
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Amendment of 9/04

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully maintain that pending claims 45-64 and 67-76 should be passed to issue.

No fee is due for the presentation of the instant amendment. The original application contained 44 claims and the present application (after the filing of the RCE and amendment) contains 30 claims (three independent claims). No fee is therefore due for the presentation of this amendment. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due or to credit any overpayment made to deposit account 04-0838.

Respectfully submitted,



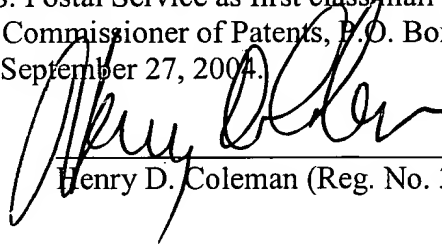
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